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‘SUMMER STARS’ RISING IN HARTFORD

Mayor Perez kicks off summer employment and learning program

HARTFORD, CT. – Joined by several “**Summer Stars**” today, Mayor Eddie A. Perez kicked off the city’s Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program, saying the proof of its success was evident in the polished and well-spoken teenagers by his side.

“There’s no better example of how well this program works than these young people whose summer jobs have added value to our local business community,” Perez said. “By participating in this program, our local businesses can give our motivated Hartford youth an experience that can inspire and guide them for a lifetime.”

The City of Hartford and Capital Workforce Partners are seeking local employers to take part by hiring “**Summer Stars**” through Hartford’s Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program. The program is a partnership between Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez, the City of Hartford, Capital Workforce Partners and local employers to engage the city’s youth in meaningful summer employment. The youth are pre-trained in essential workplace issues and many come equipped with valuable computer and other technical skills.

“This program is a great way for employers to help build our workforce of tomorrow,” said Thomas Phillips, President and CEO of Capital Workforce Partners. “Employers can begin to work with their future employees now and ensure that they are helping to grow those future employees who will be vital to their sustainability and growth.”

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The Hartford Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program offers youth ages 14 to 18 the opportunity to develop the soft skills needed to seek employment, retain employment and grow in their assigned responsibilities. Youth are encouraged to stay in school and explore career options.

“I got a lot out of this program, including experience in public speaking, conducting focus groups and other research projects and learning to deal with all kinds of professional situations,” said Rashani Hall, a senior at Bulkeley High School who is going on to Trinity College this fall. “It opened my mind and changed the way I think.”

By participating in the program, employers can help develop the region’s workforce and students can develop the skills they need to achieve their career goals. Through the program, youth and employers commit to a six-week employment experience with a minimum of 20 hours of work each week. Employers are given the flexibility to determine the start date and rate of pay. Employers are also involved in the hiring process.

Employers that don’t tend to hire summer employees can still participate by donating \$1,500 to provide a local youth with a six-week, paid experience at a local not-for-profit organization. Potential employers or donors can get involved by calling Donna Cathy at Capital Workforce Partners at 522-1111, extension 311. The program runs for 6 weeks in the summer.

Capital Workforce Partners is a private, non-profit organization that designs and manages a growing variety of workforce development programs. The CWP board has more than 80 members who work in the private, civic and public sectors in 37 communities in North Central Connecticut.

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